

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,  
AIRMEN DORMITORY  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 1880)  
New York Road  
Plattsburgh  
Clinton County  
New York

HAER No. NY-326-CZ

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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HAER No. NY-326-CZ

**Location:** New York Road, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.

UTM: 18.622760.4946300  
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

**Date of Construction:** 1956

**Architect:** Unknown

**Present Owner:** United States Air Force

**Present Use:** Vacant

**Significance:** Building No. 1880 is one of three identical 27,585-square-foot dormitories. It provided 76 dormitory-style housing units for unaccompanied airmen. This building was required housing for unaccompanied personnel in the enlisted ranks or unaccompanied civilian employees of similar grade.

**Project Information:** Building No. 1880 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey  
Deborah Dobson-Brown  
Earth Tech, Inc.  
1461 East Cooley Drive  
Colton, CA 92324

### Summary Description of Airmen Dormitory (Building No. 1880)

#### **Layout**

Building No. 1880 is a 27,585 square-foot, three-story building with a hipped roof. It is constructed of reinforced concrete block dressed in brick veneer. Each level is marked on the exterior by a continuous concrete band running horizontally around the building. The building is irregular in plan and measures approximately 207'-11" x 40'-7". The front and rear façades are symmetrical, with the front façade having alternating individual and paired two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows on each floor, thus creating a strong "A-B-A" rhythm. The covered entrance at the first floor level is centered on the front façade. The rear façade has the same windows; an offset utility room with a flat roof, which measures approximately 27'-0" x 14'-0", is centered on this façade at the ground level. At each end of the building, stair towers extend out from the main massing.

Building No. 1880 is identical in appearance and construction to Buildings No. 1882 and 1942.

#### **Alterations/Additions**

There have been no major additions or alterations made to the exterior of Building No. 1880.

#### **Function**

Building No. 1880 was used as a residential hall for unaccompanied airmen.

#### **Significance**

The newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make the Strategic Air Command (SAC) operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became the exceptional instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these installations, among the more identifiable of which would be the Airmen Dormitory. Building No. 1880 provided comfortable housing for a specific segment of the military population in close proximity to the base operational areas, where that population could go into action at a moment's notice. Toward that end, Building No. 1880 played an important part in the Plattsburgh AFB Cold-War mission.

#### **Drawings**

Copies of as-built drawings for Airmen Dormitory, Building No. 1880, are archived at:

Air Force Historical Research Agency/ISA  
600 Chennault Circle  
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6424

**Sources**

Tetra Tech, Inc.

1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

1959 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Accountable Record (1959-1989).

United States Air Force

1991 *Peace...is our Profession: Alert Operations and the Strategic Air Command, 1957-1991.* Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

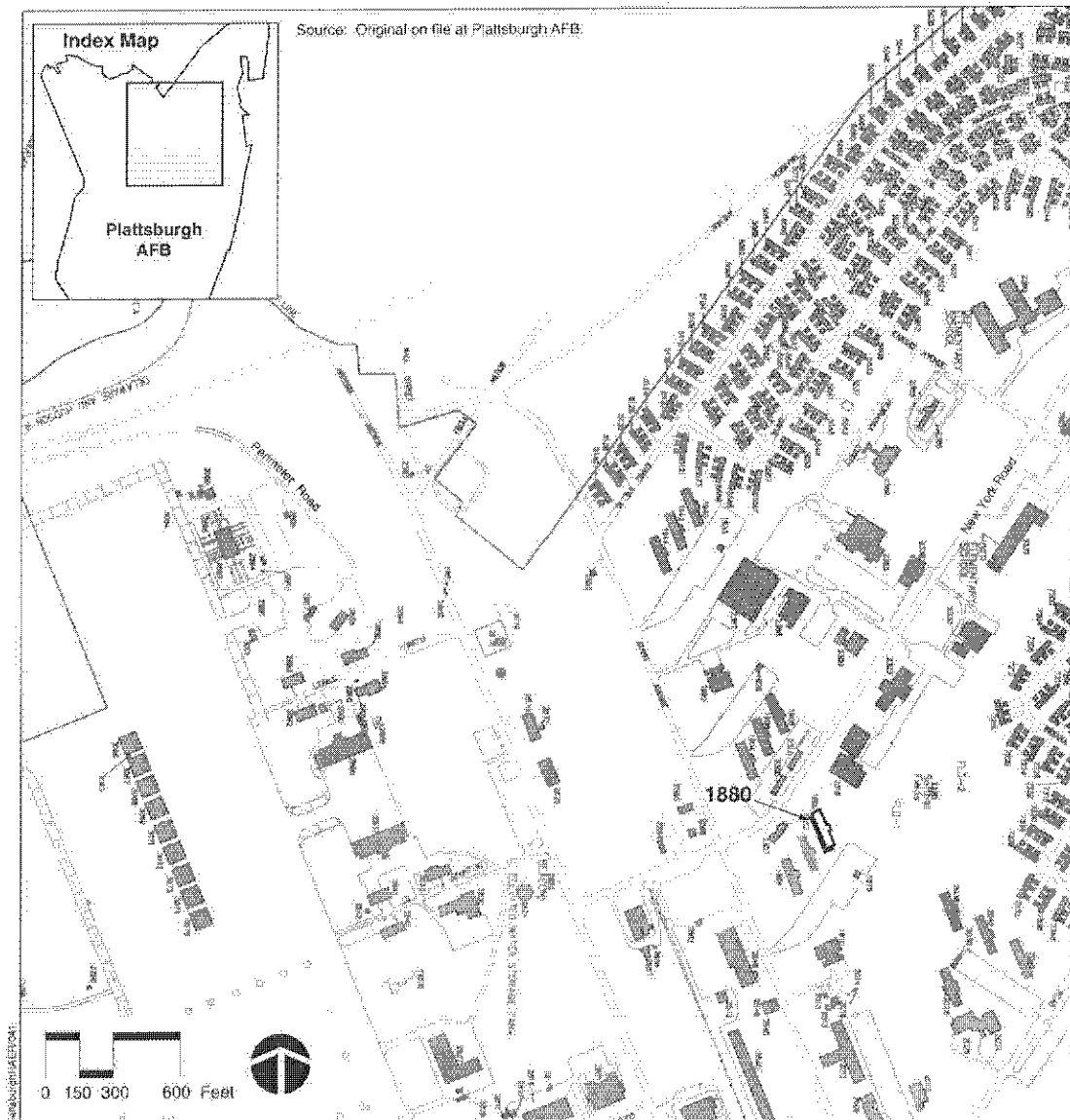
United States Air Force

2000 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Inventory Detail List.

U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

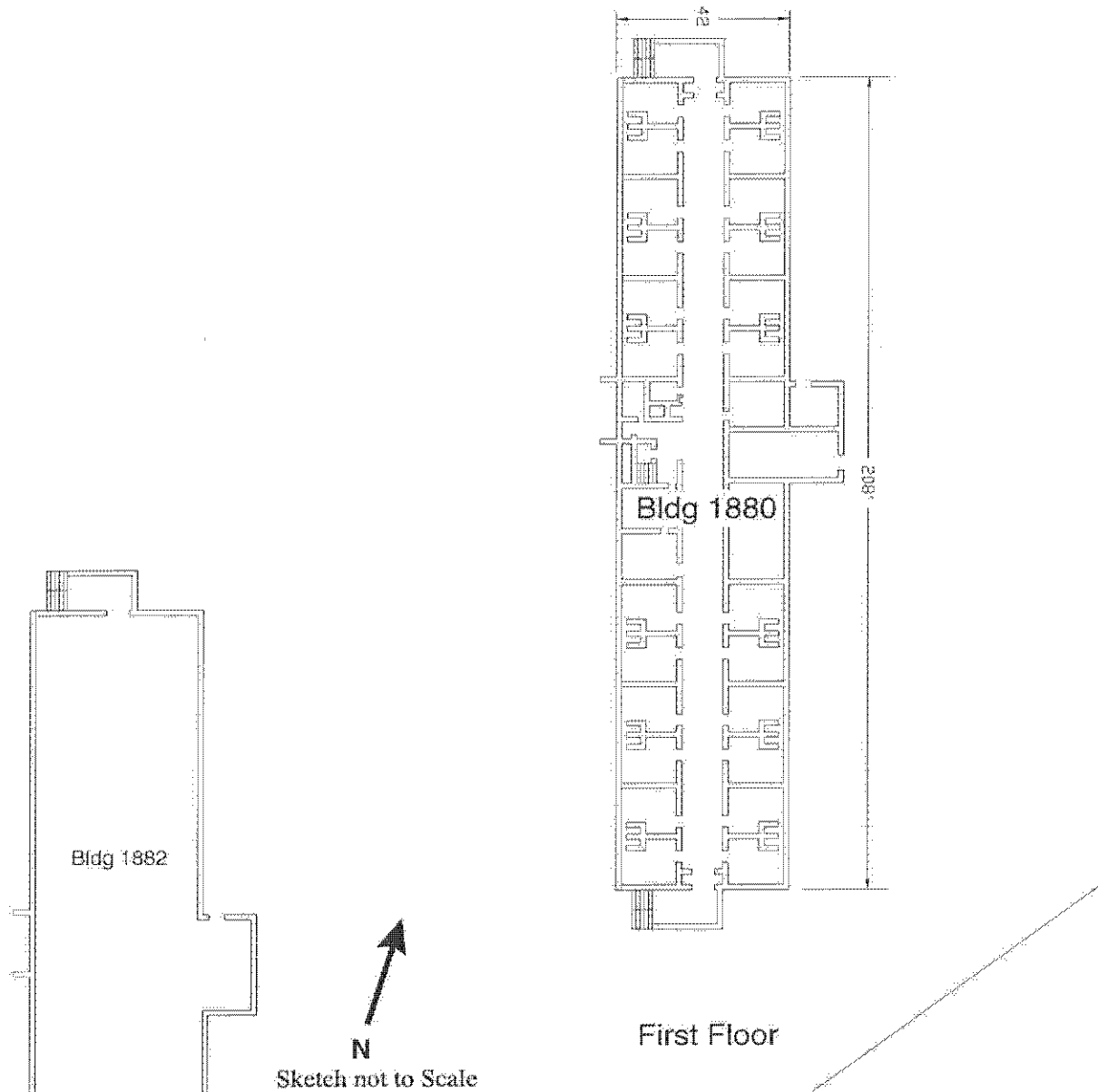
1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York,* Volumes I and II, June.

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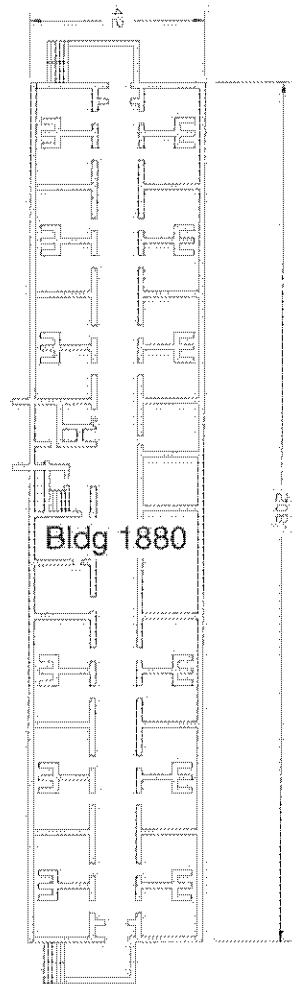
Location Map for Airmen Dormitory, Building No. 1880  
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SKETCH PLAN – AIRMEN DORMITORY, FIRST FLOOR  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 1880)  
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)  
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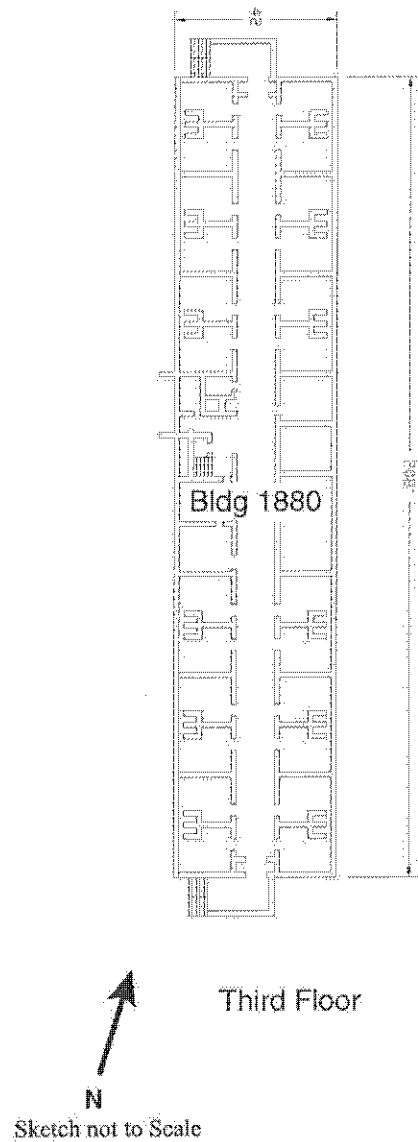


Second Floor

N  
Sketch not to Scale

SKETCH PLAN - AIRMEN DORMITORY, SECOND FLOOR  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 1880)  
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SKETCH PLAN – AIRMEN DORMITORY, THIRD FLOOR  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 1880)  
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